

changed in the past year. The poverty level for a family of three is currently \$13,330 annually. Sixty-seven percent of emergency client households have a yearly income of \$10,000 or less. Wanda, an emergency food client and mother of two, says, "My husband works but at the end of the month we just run out of money. I wouldn't know what to do if it weren't for the food pantry." For millions of American families, low wage jobs or inadequate government assistance are not sufficient to provide a family's basic nutritional needs.

HOW LONG HAVE PEOPLE DEPENDED ON EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE?

The study shows that most people seeking assistance are in a temporary hunger crisis and are not long-term dependents. Forty-four percent of Second Harvest clients have received food and grocery products for six months or less; eighteen percent for less than month.

WHAT ABOUT GOVERNMENT RESOURCES?

Food stamps. Forty-one percent of emergency food clients receive food stamps, 79 percent of those receiving food stamps say that they do not last through the end of the month. Eleven percent of food-stamp clients polled say their benefits have been discontinued, and 20 percent have seen a decrease in benefits. Of the clients not currently receiving food stamps, 40 percent have applied and are awaiting approval for benefits.

Sixty-four percent of client households with children participate in School Breakfast and Lunch programs, 31 percent of emergency clients with children participate in the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). Twenty-one percent of emergency clients with children participate in the Child- and Adult-Care Food Programs, and/or Summer Food Program.

Ninety-two percent of Second Harvest families with children receive no government assistance for daycare.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES

Twenty-eight percent of adults seeking food assistance have missed meals in the last month because there wasn't enough food, and (call out) 9% of clients' children have missed meals in the past month.*

"It's criminal that we live in a country that will allow a child to go hungry," says Rick Ellenberger, an elementary school teacher in Orlando. "Studies show that if children are not ready to learn by the time they are five or six years old, we've lost them."

The growing body of medical evidence shows that even short periods of under-nutrition can affect a child's behavior, cognitive development, and future productivity. "Children make up about one-third of our population, but they make up 100 percent of our future as a nation," states Dr. Joseph Zanga, President, American Academy of Pediatrics. "What opportunities have we lost because a child was not nourished properly? A scientist who discovers a cure for cancer? A politician or statesman who brings lasting peace to the world?"

HEALTH

Twenty-eight percent of emergency clients have had to choose between medical care or filling prescriptions and buying food. Thirty-seven percent have delayed medical care because they couldn't afford it. Thirty-six percent of emergency clients report that members of their household are in poor health, and 41 percent of the clients have unpaid medical or hospital bills. "My husband is so

frail that I must stay home and take care of him and the children," says Martina, whose husband is disabled due to being robbed and shot while leaving his job. Although the family receives Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and food stamps, it is not enough to support a family of four.

HOUSING

Thirty-five percent of people seeking assistance have had to choose between buying food and paying their rent or mortgage. And, 15.8 percent of emergency food clients are homeless, another 5 percent are living in marginal housing, such as living with friends. Stanley, a disabled caretaker whose partner works at a motel, says, "If it wasn't for the food pantry, we would starve at the end of the month. We pay the rent and utilities first and from then on it's a day-to-day existence."

America is the richest country in the world. And, yet tonight thousands of your neighbors will go to bed hungry. It may be your child's schoolmate who is under-nourished and has difficulty learning on an empty stomach. Or, it could be a co-worker, a working mother whose low-wage job doesn't make ends meet. Perhaps it's an elderly neighbor who has to make a decision whether to delay filling a prescription or buying groceries. "The faces of hunger are as broad and diverse as the faces of America," explained David Nasby, Director, Community Affairs, General Mills, Inc., and chair of the Second Harvest Board of Directors. "It may be the neighbor down the street who has encountered a tough situation or the child who is estranged from a parent. It's everybody. People you know and would never think hunger would touch. These personal low points have an impact on every single community."

Despite an economy that is thriving, unemployment is at a 30 year low, and a stock market that continues to reach historic highs, more than 21 million people in this country seek emergency food assistance through Second Harvest network at least part of the year. These startling statistics include eight million children, and more than three-and-a-half million elderly.

"Hunger 1997: The Faces & Facts" does not attempt to simplify a complex social issue. Instead, it is Second Harvest's hope that this research study will establish a clearer picture of hunger in America and its effects on all of us. No single strategy, tactic or program can solve the problem. It takes a combined effort of community involvement, government action, and charitable service to effect a solution.

Second Harvest's research shows the need is urgent. With its network of certified affiliate food banks comprising the largest domestic hunger-relief system in the country, the data collected for "Hunger 1997: The Faces & Facts" has contributed to the most comprehensive analysis of charitable hunger-relief efforts ever conducted on a broad, national scale.

"Hunger 1997: The Faces & Facts" research study was funded with generous grants from: The Aspen Institute Nonprofit Sector Research Fund; Chicago Tribune Holiday Fund; J. Willard Marriott Foundation; Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger; Nabisco Foundation; Sara Lee Foundation; Share Our Strength; and W.K. Kellogg Foundation. ●

NATIONAL BREAST CANCER SURVIVOR'S DAY

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise in support of the resolution designating April 1, 1998 as "National Breast Cancer Survivor's Day."

It is only proper, Mr. President, that we should set aside a day to honor the brave women and men who have survived this dread disease, which causes pain, suffering and even death for so many Americans.

Every year, Mr. President, 178,700 women and 1,600 men in the United States are stricken with breast cancer. Each of us must live with the knowledge that 1 in 9 American women will suffer from breast cancer in her lifetime. That means that virtually all of us will either be stricken by breast cancer or know someone who is.

I know in my case, Mr. President, I lost my mother to breast cancer some years ago. It was a painful experience for all of our friends and family as well as my mother herself. The pain caused by this dread disease is intense for everyone involved, and we must do everything in our power to eradicate this scourge.

Thankfully, Mr. President, we have made some progress in our battle with breast cancer. The 5 year survival rate for breast cancer victims has risen to 97 percent in cases of early detection.

Medical advances have helped more women are surviving breast cancer. Just as important, however, has been the fact that we as a nation are doing a better job of telling women about their options, and of emphasizing the importance of self-examination and regular visits to the doctor.

This is one reason, Mr. President, why I believe it is important that we honor breast cancer survivors in the manner called for by this resolution. By bringing breast cancer survivors together here in Washington, DC and elsewhere around the country, we can celebrate survivorship and publicize, not just the tragedy of breast cancer, but also the hope that is provided by research and early detection.

We need to get the message out that there are things women can do for themselves in the fight against breast cancer. We need to highlight the effectiveness of early detection and show our respect for the courage of women who have faced this disease and lived.

We have a long way to go, Mr. President, before we win our battle with breast cancer. But research, early detection and programs to make Americans aware of their options in dealing with the possibility of breast cancer all can help.

I salute the women of American who have faced breast cancer, along with the families and friends who have supported them during their time of trial, and I hope that all of us can join together, not only to mourn those who lost their battle with breast cancer, but also to honor those who have fought that battle and survived. ●

BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 1998

Mr. CHAFEE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of calendar No. 315, S. 1605.

*The United States Current Population Survey (CPS) defines this situation as "food insecure with severe hunger."